Fact and Opinion

- **Statements of opinion** are someone's beliefs or way of thinking about something. The statement *Cars are the best way to travel* is a statement of opinion.
- **Statements of fact** can be proved true or false. Statements of opinion cannot be proved, but can be shown to be valid or faulty. **Valid** statements of opinion are supported by facts or experts. **Faulty** statements are not supported by facts.

**Directions** Read the following passage and complete the diagram.

Everyone knows that Cesar Chavez was a major figure in American history. He was dedicated to an important struggle: the cause of migrant workers. His union drew attention to problems experienced by farm workers. A 1965 strike protested low wages for grape pickers, and a boycott of grapes started soon afterward. Chavez used marches and boycotts to protest unfair working conditions. In addition, he fasted to call attention to injustices. However, Chavez believed a protest should never become violent. At Cesar Chavez’s funeral, President Bill Clinton spoke of him as “an authentic hero.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement of Opinion</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Valid or Faulty?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Everyone knows that Cesar Chavez was a major figure in American history.</td>
<td>1.</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>However, Chavez believed a protest should never become violent.</td>
<td>3.</td>
<td>4.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Is the statement of opinion in the final sentence valid? Why do you think so?

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**Home Activity** Your child identified valid and faulty statements of opinion in a nonfiction passage. Work with your child to identify the facts and opinions in a magazine article about a social issue. Discuss how well supported the opinions are.
Writing • Letter to the Editor

Key Features of a Letter to the Editor

• is sent to the editor of a newspaper or magazine
• is written in response to a story, event, or issue
• usually aims to persuade others by supporting claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence
• establishes and maintains correct formal letter format

April 9, 2010
To the Editor:
I am writing to you about the dangerous landfill recently proposed by some members of our city council. The proposal is to use vacant land between the river and the railroad tracks on the west side of the city as a landfill site. If the proposal is approved, the consequences will be unpleasant for the surrounding neighborhoods and also harmful to our environment and our wildlife.

Since prevailing winds are westerly, and the proposed site is on the western edge of the city limits, the putrid smell from the landfill will blow across the city constantly. Our city home, of which we are proud, will be a less desirable location for residents and a less desirable destination for visitors. Fewer residents and visitors will translate into trouble for our businesses. Furthermore, because the proposed site is so close to the river, harmful pollutants will easily leach through the ground and into the river. The pollutants will make the water unlivable for fish, ducks, and other wildlife that are appreciated and treasured by residents and visitors alike.

For the reasons outlined above, I urge the city council to vote no on the proposed landfill location and to find a place that is better suited for it.

Sincerely,

Amy Rabideaux

1. List five persuasive adjectives in the letter.

2. Write two facts used by the author to support her opinion.
Name ____________________________________________

Vocabulary

Directions Choose the word from the box that best matches each clue. Write the word on the line.

1. very great pain
2. something that prevents or stops progress
3. right to approach, enter, or use
4. to become limp and bend down; wither
5. power to enforce obedience

Directions Choose the word from the box that best completes each sentence. Write the word on the line shown to the left.

6. The fields of southern California are _____ with growing fruits and vegetables.
7. To harvest the crops, farm owners need _____ to a large supply of labor.
8. One _____ for farm owners is the difficulty of finding a large labor supply.
9. After many months, grueling farm labor can take a _____ on the workers.
10. They may not have the _____ to change their working conditions.

Write a Newspaper Article

On a separate sheet of paper, write a newspaper article about a civic event you observed. Be sure to tell why, when, where, and how it occurred. Use as many vocabulary words as you can.

Home Activity Your child identified and used vocabulary words from Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez. Read a biography with your child. Have him or her point out unfamiliar words. Work together to try to figure out the meaning of each word by using other words that appear near it.
Adjectives and Articles

An adjective is a word that describes a noun or pronoun. It tells what kind, how many, or which one.

We stood in the crisp air. The girls were eager. (what kind)
Several people came. Four women worked. (how many)
What was that noise? These ideas are good. (which ones)

The words a, an, and the are special adjectives called articles. They appear before nouns and other adjectives. Use a before a word that begins with a consonant sound. Use an before a word that begins with a vowel sound. Use the before words beginning with any letter.

The boy grew up in a home in Arizona. An old friend called me.

A proper adjective is formed from a proper noun. Proper adjectives are capitalized.

They raised the Mexican flag.

Directions Underline the adjectives in the sentences once. Underline the articles twice.

1. Those eager supporters talked to leaders of the march.
2. A peaceful march was the goal.
3. Workers were welcomed into an inviting shelter.
4. A black eagle adorned the flag.
5. Tired workers hunched over the grapevines.
6. An irate landowner worried about that vineyard.
7. A ripe grape must be picked or it will rot.
8. Many people gathered at the ranch for friendly barbecues.

Directions Write a, an, or the to complete each sentence.

9. We planted _______________ interesting garden last year.
10. Maria picked _______________ artichoke from the garden.
11. He knew he was _______________ most stubborn boy in class.
12. Cesar Chavez did not believe he was _______________ strong fighter.
14. Did you know that _______________ raisin comes from a grape?

Home Activity Your child learned about adjectives and articles. Have your child underline three sentences in the newspaper and then circle the articles and other adjectives in the sentences.
Words from Many Cultures

Spelling Words

ivory    cocoa    lilac    gorilla    pretzel
safari   kayak    crocodile    fiesta    dandelion
monsoon  slalom   amateur    boutique    suede
poncho   hammock  bungalow    sequin    burrito

Definitions  Write a list word that fits each definition.

1. tortilla rolled around a seasoned filling
2. seasonal wind that causes heavy rainfall when blowing from the southwest
3. a small disc of shining metal used to decorate clothing
4. to ski in a zigzag course
5. a small one-story house
6. a person who does things for fun rather than for money
7. a hanging couch made of canvas or woven cords
8. a small, fashionable shop
9. a large piece of cloth with a hole for the head
10. leather with a velvety surface

Words in Context  Write a list word to finish each sentence below.

11. Did you know you can use ___ leaves in salad?
12. Tusks of elephants and walruses are made of ___.
13. Another name for a party is a ___.
14. Hot ___ hits the spot on a cold winter day.
15. There are important differences between an alligator and a ___.
16. A ___ is a type of flower.
17. I rushed through the rapids without tipping my ___.
18. The ___ is the largest primate in the zoo.
19. My uncle brought back some great photos from his ___ in Africa.
20. Some folks like chips, but I prefer a good ___.

Home Activity  Your child wrote words from many cultures. Ask your child to identify each food item in the list, spell the word, and use it in a sentence.

Reader’s and Writer’s Notebook  Unit 5
Spelling  Words from Many Cultures  331
Name _____________________________

Harvesting Hope

Main Idea Chart

Main Idea

Supporting Details

Supporting Details

Supporting Details
Vocabulary • Homonyms

- **Homonyms** are words that sound the same but have different meanings.
- When you see a homonym in your reading, use context clues around the word to figure out its meaning. Decide which meaning makes sense in the sentence.

**Directions** Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below.

The signing of the Declaration of Independance was like the toll of a funeral bell for British control of the American colonies. The United States was founded on principles including the right to free speech and freedom of assembly. The U.S. Constitution guarantees access to these rights. The framers of the Constitution wanted to avoid any obstacle to expressing these rights. As a result, today citizens can take part in protest marches and access articles that are critical of the government. While resulting disagreements can take a toll, there are many advantages to giving authority to the people.

1. **Toll** can mean “to announce by sounding a bell” or “something paid, lost, or suffered.” Which meaning of the homonym is used in the first sentence?

2. How do context clues help you determine the meaning of the homonym **toll** in the last sentence? What does it mean there?

3. **Access** can mean “to make information available” or “right to approach, enter, or use.” What does it mean in the fifth sentence? What helps you to determine the meaning?

4. How does the meaning of **access** help determine the meaning of **obstacle** in the fourth sentence?

5. **Authority** can mean “power to enforce obedience,” “person who has such power,” or “an expert on some subject.” What does **authority** mean in the last sentence? How can you use context clues to determine the meaning?

**School + Home**

**Home Activity** Your child identified and used context to understand homonyms and other new words in a passage. Challenge your child to find a homonym in an article. Then ask him or her to use context clues to help with the understanding of the homonym. Confirm the meanings with your child.
Name__________________________________________________________

**Newsletter**

- A *newsletter* is a short publication containing news of interest to a particular group's members.
- Newsletters include news articles, features, and opinion pieces such as editorials. A news story, which has a headline and sometimes a byline giving the writer's name, tells who, what, when, where, why, and how something happened. Features, which are more informal, are written to inform in an entertaining way. Although news stories are intended to provide only facts, opinions can be expressed by leaving out certain facts.

**Directions** Use this article from a farmworkers' newsletter to answer the questions.

**FARMWORKERS MARCH IN PROTEST**

by Ana Ortega

More than 400 people marched through Davis County on March 11 in support of local mushroom farmworkers. Several film actors were among the group.

The march ended with a rally at Arojo Arena, where speakers demanded that local mushroom growers provide increased wages and benefits. “Immigrant workers deserve better treatment,” a United Farm Workers spokesman told the crowd. Many workers carried signs or waved flags with the UFW emblem. Workers, who earn 80 cents per basket, are requesting a raise of 5 cents per basket. This would increase their wages to approximately $7.50 per hour.

Mushroom company officials did not comment.

“We need to give the farmworkers our support,” said actor Tim Bond, a marcher.

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1. Is the article a news story, feature, or editorial? Why?


3. What is the headline? the byline?

4. What is one fact presented in the article?

5. Explain if you think the article has been slanted by leaving out facts.
Name

**Directions**  This is another article from the farmworkers’ newsletter about an event of interest to the group’s members. Use it to answer the questions below.

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**JOIN THE CELEBRATION FOR CHAVEZ!**

The week of April 21 to 28 has been named Cesar Chavez Week in Oxnard, California, and a special celebration on April 28 will cap off the festivities. Everyone should join in honoring the memory of Chavez, who did so much for the immigrant workers of California. The day-long event will begin at 9 a.m. with a procession from Central Plaza to Chavez Park. Afterward, a ceremony will include speeches and songs. The mayor will give a memorable talk at 10 A.M., followed by a wonderful speech by a United Farm Workers representative. A Cesar Chavez scholarship will be presented. Dances, contests, songs, and theatrical performances will fill the day with fun.

This will be an event you will never forget. Be sure to attend—and bring your family.

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6. What is the headline?

7. Is this article a news story, feature, or editorial? How do you know?


9. What are two opinions given in the article?

10. Who is the audience for this newsletter? How is that audience reflected in the information this article contains?

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**Home Activity**  Your child learned about reading newsletters and the types of articles they contain. With your child, look at a newsletter for an organization. Ask him or her to locate news stories, features, and editorials and point out the facts and opinions they contain.
Words from Many Cultures

Proofread a Letter  Circle six misspelled words in the letter below. Write them correctly. Find a sentence with a mistake in capitalization. Write it correctly.

Dear Mark,

My family and I just got back from the greatest vacation ever—a real African safarie. there’s a lot to tell you. We saw a crocadile, a gorila, and dozens of other wild animals. One night we slept in a small bungalow with no electricity. We each had our own hammuck and listened to the night sounds echoing throgh the jungle. We even took a kiyak trip down a remote river. Wait until you see the pictures!
See you soon,
David

1. ___________  2. ___________
3. ___________  4. ___________
5. ___________  6. ___________
7. __________________________________________

Proofread Words  Circle the word that is spelled correctly. Write it on the line.

8. ivory  ivory
9. coco  cocoa
10. lilac  lilack
11. suede  seude
12. pretzel  pretsel
13. saphari  safari
14. amiture  amateur
15. poncho  ponchoe

Spelling Words

ivory
cocoa
lilac
gorilla
pretzel
safari
kayak
crocodile
fiesta
dandelion
monsoon
slalom
amateur
boutique
suede
poncho
hammock
bungalow
sequin
burrito
Adjectives and Articles

Directions Read the passage. Then read each question. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

Cesar Chavez

(1) In the 1960s, Cesar Chavez felt that farmworkers needed _______ working conditions and _______ pay. (2) He organized twelve marches to fight for the rights of the migrant workers. (3) He wanted lawmakers to vote for laws that would improve _______ lives of _______ farmworkers. (4) In addition to the marches, he planned _______ boycott of grapes and lettuce. (5) Many bitter and violent fights broke out between the police and the marchers. (6) When workers got contracts for better pay and safer working conditions, Chavez ended the boycotts. (7) Cesar Chavez received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his untiring efforts.

1 Which adjectives best complete sentence 1?
A poor/disappointing
B better/higher
C solid/surprising
D disorganized/low

2 In sentence 2, the underlined word answers which question about the workers?
A What kind?
B How many?
C Which one?
D How much?

3 Which article could be used in the two places in sentence 3?
A a
B an
C the
D None of the above

4 Which phrase best completes sentence 4?
A the final
B an angry
C the hungry
D a nationwide

5 In sentence 5, the underlined word answers which question about the workers?
A What kind?
B How many?
C Which one?
D How much?

Home Activity Your child prepared for taking tests on adjectives and articles. Ask your child to explain what articles and adjectives are and to point out examples of each in something he or she has written.